

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Parker (Reg. No. 37,414) on 9/8/11.

Independent Claims 1, 10, 19, 28, 58 and 60 have been amended as follow.

Please replace limitation of "arcuate" with - - concave arcuate - -.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-36, 58, 60 and 102-140 are allowed.

### **Reasons for Allowance**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not appear to disclose or suggest a motivation to combine a suture that includes the combination of recited limitations in claim 1, especially, the limitation "the barbs have an underside, and the underside of the barb attaches to the suture body along a line that is transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongated body and is concave arcuate, and a barb cut angle  $\Theta$  ranging from about 140 degrees to about 175 degrees".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN V. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-5962. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

**If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on 571-272-4357.** The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

***If there are any inquiries that are not being addressed by first contacting the Examiner or the Supervisor, you may send an email inquiry to TC3700\_Workgroup\_D\_Inquiries@uspto.gov***

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/TUAN NGUYEN/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3731